

An Essay
on the
Moral and Physical effects of Tonics

Respectfully Submitted
to The
Faculty of the Homoeopathic
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of
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We are told by Mr Webster that the word tonic means a drug that will produce an effect on the muscles or nervous system or on some other part of the animal economy, and when given as a medicine it increases the strength and tone of the system obviating the effects of debility and restoring health to the functions.

The above definition gives us to understand that Mr Webster did not fully comprehend the great law of cure.

There are diseases that give strength to the muscular system which he called tonic spasm the effects are however very different,

In the former case, where a drug
is given its effects are continuous,
end^guring for a length of time, if the
dose is repeated it will continue unt
ill the system sinks or is worn out
and refuses to be acted upon by it.

In the other case when disease
produces a tonic or spasm, the mus-
cular fibres are contracted and
relaxed in quick succession and produce
a jerking and the appearance of great
agitation, sometimes however the
spasms continue for a length of
time, in case of tetanus or lockjaw
in that case the muscles ^{are} drawn very
tense and of an astonishing rigid-
ity and sometimes lasts for a num-
ber of days. There is not a doubt

that a tonic increases strength
but the question is asked from whence
is this strength derived does the stim-
ulant aid nature in accumulating
strength? or does it make a direct
draft on her without giving her
an equivalent and after that stre-
ngth ^{is} spent will not the system
be more reduced and languid
than it was before? There is not
a doubt but it will, and that
is not all, the system will receive
such a shock that it will take
some length of time to repair it.

We will now turn our attention
to some one of more of what is
called cerebral tonics—Alcohol
stands at the head of the list

and of all others it is used most in
baths private and professional practice
and there is no other one that has
done so much harm, some imagine
that there are but few pairs but that
can be relieved by it,

We will enquire
what are its effects on the
physical system, when taken
in small quantities it exhilarates
the powers of both body and
mind and the man can put
forth more strength and can per-
form a greater amount of physical
labour for a given ^{time} than he could
without it, he then sinks down
incapable of performing any amount
of labour until the system has

regained its strength by rest, in
like manner when taken for disease
it may seem to relieve for the mo-
ment but soon reaction comes on
the patient then sinks far below
what he would have done had ^{he} not
taken it, thus momentary relief
has been bought at a dear rate.

This is not all, the moral effects
are worse than the physical, who
can behold the man who has
become an inebriate from hooking
the appetite ^{formed by} taking Brandy as a
medicine without feelings of disgust,
see the contrast! once a man in
prosperous business, now in want &
poverty, once a kind father, now
a fiend making his family as

miserable as they can be, once a
good neighbour and friend now an
enemy to all around, he soon
finds himself in want and an
out-cast, how deplorable—

But still there is another stim-
ulant, which is a much praised
remedy with the old school physicians,
its physical effects are very marked
and destructive, we mean Opium,

Perhaps we cannot get a better
picture than by looking at those
who are in the habit of using
it as a stimulant. After the
system has been under its influence
a little time we see the strong man
become emaciated trembling and
tattling about, with a ghastly look

his digestive organs deranged and
dyspeptic nervous and entirely un-
aided for all business, some convulsions,
when its use is protracted for some
length of time epileptic fits con-
vulsion with entire loss of conscie-
ousness, soon Paralysis follows and
Dropsical swellings of the whole Body
and death will soon come to their
relief

When we look at its moral
effects, we still find a dark picture,
the patient becomes careless, with
great anxiety, & inquietude, with fick-
leness of mind with a tendency to
be frightened, then rash, inconsiden-
ate; Again he becomes bold, then
frank, with appreciable reverses

Then stupor, loss of consciousness, again,
a great flow of ideas, with a disposition
to make profound reflections, soon
then come on mania deliriums,
with frightful visions of all kinds
of hideous animals and imps which
seem to come from no other place
than the infernal regions.

These above are some of the effects of
eating Opium. It is a very com-
mon thing to see patients under
old school treatment exhibit all
the above symptoms, and ~~these~~ ^{are} thousands
every year ~~down~~ drawn into this
voluntary pool of destruction.

Ferrum is another tonic which is
much praised by many Physicians
they imagine that by administering it

in large doses it will contribute to supply the deficiency of blood, it is given to patients that are pale and emaciated and seem to be in want of more nutriment, to the system, others think that everything that is red will make blood, others think that because iron is found in blood by giving it, there will be deposits left in the system to supply the deficiency.

I saw a young lady a few days since who had been under Allopathic treatment for four or five months by one of our most distinguished Physicians in this City, she said she had not taken anything but Iron, her entire group of symptoms showed a most beautiful

poisoning of Metallic Iron, as it is laid
down in the Materia Medica she
had taken it until ⁱⁿ stomach had
become in such a state that it
rejected all kinds of medicine (purgatives)
and ~~but~~ little food, she was poor
and emaciated and pale and quite
discouraged. She is now under Home-
treatment, time can only ^{say} what the
result will be, at the present time
indications are favourable.

Another is another remedy that is much
used together with Chloroform it is
used to relieve pain they are
considered very formidable medicines
although they sometimes prove fatal
they are much used in the most
trivial situations.

There are a great number of articles that are called tonics which are supposed to act on different parts of the animal economy, but to one who understands the law of cure it seems almost ridiculous to suppose disease can be cured rapidly and specifically, with heavy doses of drugs.

But there are another class of stimulents called the Excitants.

Motor Stimulents to this class belong Strychnine or Nick Nomenclature and the ergot they are used by old School Physicians sometimes, to produce energy when there is torpor or paralytic condition of the muscles, but when the brain is involved or any

organic lesions of that organ
by not, strychnine as that worm is often
used to remove pain, they are
they not narcotic, neither is the
pulse affected by it, but they
have a very decided action on
the spinal marrow, and when
given in large doses they produce
deafness and many other frightful
symptoms such as attacks of convul-
sions, tetanus, rattling respiration,
with cries, throwing back the
head, tremor of the limbs, vom-
iting, profuse sweat, sometimes
an attack of chorea, followed by a
sensation of numbness, in all the
parts, the above are some of the
effect of these deadly drugs yet

notwithstanding the effects are so
marked and destructive they are often
given with impunity to patients
untill they are dragged within an inch
of their lives, this done with the
vain hope after times, that when
the effect of the medicine leaves
it will carry the pain and dis-
ease with it, how false the notion,

Moral Symptoms, sorrowful
and morose sad humour with
a desire to weep without being able to
do so, Melancholy, with great
uneasiness, Desire for solitude &
repose, Anxiety and excessive unea-
siness agitation which allows no
rest and urges one to commit
suicide —

On casting our minds over
the effects of a few of those heroic
tonics which are much less injuri-
ous to the system than many other
medicines given by the old school
practitioners, there is a dread and
revolting feeling comes over us,
& seems to forbid our ever meddling
with those uncertain remedies and
one often led to say, touch not
taste not, and give not those
doddering drugs.

If I did not
believe that Home^r had a better law
of cure, and that cures can be
made with more safety to the
patient and in less time, I never
would visit a patient with a view

that of easing their pain or alleviating their disease

How grateful
ought every Homo. Philo. to feel that
he has been enabled to see this beautiful
law which commends itself so
clearly to every honest mind.

the first of the month
of June 1864. The day was
very warm and the sun
shone brightly. The wind
was from the south and
the water was very calm.
The boat was very comfortable
and the crew were very
kind. The day was very
pleasant and the weather
was very good. The boat
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